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THE FAMILY REMEDY;

OR,

Perkins's Patent Metallic Tractors,

FOR THE RELIEF OF TOPICAL DISEASES OF THE HUMAN BODY;

AND OF HORSES.

Just Published, Price ONE SHILLING;

THE EFFICACY OF PERKINS's PATENT METALLIC TRACTORS,

Exemplified by 250 Cases on the HUMAN BODY, and on HORSES; in which a late Attempt of Dr. HAYGARTH, of Bath, to detract from the Merits of the Practice, by asserting its Action on the Imagination, is fully confuted,

By BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, A. M.

OF LEICESTER SQUARE, SON OF DR. PERKINS, THE DISCOVERER.

Published by J. JOHNSON, St. Paul's Church Yard; WRIGHT, Piccadilly; DARTON and HARVEY, Gracechurch Street; OGILVY and SON, Holborn, London; CRUTWELL, Bath; BELL and BRADFUTE, Edinburgh; and W. GILBERT, Dublin.

THE Complaints most subject to the Influence of the TRACTORS, are ACUTE and CHRONIC RHEUMATISM, including LUMBAGO and SCIATICA; GOUT, SPRAINS, CONTUSIONS, BURNS, SCALDS, INFLAMMATIONS of the EYES; also of the SKIN, as ERYSIPELAS and TETTERS; Painful INFLAMMATORY TUMOURS, as BILES and WHITLOWS; violent SPASMODIC CONVULSIONS, as EPILEPTIC FITS, CRAMP, and LOCKED JAW; PLEURISY; STINGS and BITES of VENOMOUS INSECTS; FLUOR ALBUS; PAINS in the HEAD, FACE, EARS, BREAST, SIDE, BACK, and LIMBS. ——The Diseases of Horses, such as correspond with these.

The very rapid increase of the reputation of the Metallic Tractors, their unperishable nature, the simplicity and innocence of their operation, even in the hands of the most illiterate, their eminent tendency to diminish the number of Medical Fees in the numerous familes in this kingdom, where they are owned, added to the well known universal maxim of the Faculty to oppose every Patented Remedy, necessarily expose them to virulent attacks and artful misrepresentations. As these can be accomplished through no medium more effectually than in Reviews, and similar Journals, it may easily be conceived that such a masked mode would be eagerly embraced, and that every argument and explanation unfavourable to the Practice, which great ingenuity and learning could suggest, would assuredly be employed. It becomes therefore expedient, that a few unmutilated Cases, a few simple Facts, be here adduced, from among the many hundred of a similar description, which are published in the book above-mentioned, in order that men, in the habit of forming opinions from the exercise of their own reason, may have an opportunity of so doing, without referring to those which are the result of prejudice and self-interest.

Before entering upon these Cases, however, it may be proper to observe, that it is by no means intended to suggest, that all Reviews have become the vehicle of such attacks; several have faithfully reported the nature of the Cases which have been published, and expressed their opinion on the merits of the Discovery; as the following Extracts will shew.——

"To most people in years, the infirm in every period of life, all those who are confined by contracted postures to unhealthy situations and sedentary habits, and especially the weaker sex, whose feeble frames are often debilitated and crushed by their condition in life; a remedy nearly immediate is here proposed, and authenticated by characters who cannot be suspected of ignorance or connivance with imposture. Of all medical discoveries urged on public attention from motives palpably lucrative, we are naturally and properly suspicious; as of nostrums and arbitrary prescriptions there is no end. These Tractors, however, have become, from the wonderful effects ascribed to them, objects of just and general solicitude. And we are glad, for the honour of the Discovery, and more for the amelioration of our common nature, *which they amply promise*, to see them brought forward in so questionless a shape."—*London Review, for Nov.* 1799.

"The cases which have occurred in England, are very numerous, and of respectable authority.—— Among these we have some of a different class from those hitherto published, viz. upon Horses. It would be inviduous not to admit, that these results must effectually do away the idea, that the Tractors produce their effects through imagination. One gentleman observes, that he could perceive a swelling diminish, when using them upon his hunter, which met with severe contusions by a fall. On the whole, we have no hesitation in acknowledging that the experiments adduced in this work, are of such a nature, and so respectably attested, as to go very far towards removing the doubts we formerly expressed of the efficacy of this novel practice."—*Novelties of Literature*, (No. CCCXXIII.) *Oct.* 1799.

"Suspicion never fails to attend every publication, which relates to an article sold by the author. In the present work we see nothing which should induce us to doubt the facts stated by Mr. Perkins. These Metallic Tractors have been tried by many scientific characters in America, as well as in several parts of Europe. They are now sold, under a Patent, in England, where they have also been successfully used in many instances; and it would be at once cruel and unjust to suggest on slight grounds, and still more so without any ground at all, such reflections as might tend to lessen the reward due to a meritorious invention." After a long quotation, they thus conclude. "Indeed of diseases where relief has been obtained by the use of the Metallic Tractors, there are so many cases in this work authenticated by well known respectable characters, that it must be the extreme of audacity and folly absolutely to deny their efficacy."—*Weekly Review, Oct.* 1799.

In adducing the following Cases, preference has not been given to those from the Medical Profession. Had their testimony been preferred, the same book would have afforded similar attestations from some of the first physicians in Europe. A medical education is far from being necessary in the description of the visible effects produced by this simple application, and which indeed is so evident, that even Medical Reviewers could not but acknowledge, that "Persons not of the profession were competent on the present occasion, for the subject is for the most part an appeal to the common senses."—[*Medical and Chirurgical Review, for Nov.* 1789.]

None can be so intemperate as to suggest that the vouchers to the efficacy of the Tractors, who follow, can have any other interest in their statement than that of promoting the cause of truth and humanity; or that their characters for integrity and erudition do not set calumny at defiance.

Letter from the Rev. Dr. John Trotter, *of Hans Place, Knightsbridge, Dec.* 3, 1799.

Dear Sir,—Since my letter to you, 29th of March last, I have the pleasure to inform you that I have operated with the desired effect in Eighty different Cases, among my friends and acquaintance, with the Metallic Tractors. I am more and more convinced of the importance of this discovery to mankind, and cannot help pitying those, who, either through ignorance or prejudice, attempt to depreciate its merits. A little time will shew their mistake, and put a stop to groundless aspersions.—I will adduce one or two Cases.

CASE I.—Erysipelous.

"A lady was afflicted with an Erysipelous in her face.—The inflammation and swelling were so great that one of her eyes was closed, and she complained of great pain. After being operated on for ten minutes, the swelling and inflammation were abated, and the face came to its natural colour, and which was so evident as to be voluntarily remarked by one of the family present. In a few minutes more the gentlewoman cheerfully acknowledged that she was quite well.

CASE II.—Gout.

"A man in business, aged 37, had for several years been subject to the Gout. Calling one day I found him in bed, and very much distressed with the disease in one of his feet. After I had operated upon it with the Tractors fifteen minutes, he said his pain was entirely gone, while, at the same time, I observed the inflammation and swelling subside. He has had no return of his complaint these five months."

CASE III.—Burn.

"A lady burned her hand. I happily called at the house immediately after the accident, and applied the Tractors. In about ten minutes the inflammation disappeared, the vesication was prevented, and she said the pain was gone.

"After such proofs of the efficacy of the Metallic Tractors, I must believe them to be most useful instruments, and which, I think, no family in town or country should be without. They seem in a particular manner to be a proper vade mecum for clergymen; who, while administering spiritual counsel to the afflicted under their charge, must have a pleasing and useful employment in relieving them from a painful bodily disorder, especially when they may be assured, at the same time, they are in no danger of doing any harm by the remedy.—Wishing you health and prosperity, I am, dear Sir, your very humble servant.

JOHN TROTTER."

P. S. The young woman mentioned in my former letter has had no return of her Epileptic Fits *.

The following are among ten similar experiments in the Public Dispensary of Sunderland, county of Durham, made at the request of several personages desirous of ascertaining the merits of the Tractors; copied from the Minute-book by Mr. Edgar, the Apothecary, and approved by Dr. Brown, Physician to the institution:

Sunderland, January 1800.

Thomas Brown, Æt. 8, recommended by Mr. Heurtley. Violent PAIN in the HEAD, occasioning DELIRIUM. The Tractors were applied, during which the pain gradually diminished. It was likewise observed that the florid colour in his face disappeared. Used them daily five days, when he found himself perfectly easy. The delirium ceased after the first application.—Dismissed cured.

John Hill, Æt. 69, recommended by Mr. Hutton. A severe RHEUMATISM in the SHOULDER. The Tractors were applied daily six days, when he found himself perfectly well.—Dismissed cured.

George Dickson, Æt. 24, recommended by Mr. Wylam. INFLAMMATION of the EYES. Operated upon the Eye; the inflammation subsided in part: Repeated the same at evening, and it was removed entirely.—Dismissed cured.

William Rogerson, Æt. 24, recommended by the Lord Bishop of Durham. Violent PAINS in the LOINS and HEAD, with continual SICKNESS. The Tractors were used four times, when he felt himself perfectly cured. The second day he vomited a large worm; the sickness left him after the first application.

For the following very honourable Attestation, Mr. Perkins *is indebted to* Dr. Langworthy, *of Bath, to whom it was addressed for Publication.*

"Bath, December 24th.

"Sir William Barker presents his compliments to Dr. Langworthy: he has not the least objection to have his name appear with those who have received benefit from the use of the Metallic Tractors. He has been afflicted with violent Rheumatic Pains in each of his knees, at different times, for upwards of ten years, and in his hips and back; he has tried a variety of medicines, and both sea-bathing and Buxton waters, with little or no effect. He could not walk a street's length when he came here (some months since) without suffering great pain, but is now able to walk over the whole town with little or no pain, which he attributes to the use of the Tractors."

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* *The letter here alluded to stated Twenty-one Cases, extracted from the Doctor's Minute Book, in which he registers a particular Account of his Practice.*

Letter from Dr. JOHN MATHER, *Member of the Royal College of Physicians, London.—St. Alban's Street, Pall Mall, April* 9, 1800.

"DEAR SIR,—Whatever sentiments I may entertain, founded on that unerring rule *Experiment*, I must ever feel myself fully authorised in communicating with confidence, and more especially if the benefit of the Public can thereby be promoted. When I first heard of your Tractors, I candidly own, my faith in their efficacy was as weak as that of some others of my Brethren; and, untill I happened by accident to be present at an application, I regarded the Metallic Practice as a species of Animal Magnetism. I was induced by this, and one or two other cases which came to my knowledge, to put myself much in the way of witnessing further trials. These were so satisfactory, that a few months since, I publicly notified my intention of employing the Tractors in such cases, among my patients, as should be thought suitable subjects. The result has been an entire conviction, that many painful Topical Disorders which obstinately resist the efforts of Medicine, administered by the most skilful in our art, may be cured by the influence of this innocent and simple application.

"The effects of the Tractors in reducing recent inflammations and tumefactions, are often so instantaneous, as to be *visible*. On infants, and in other cases where imagination is equally inactive, their efficacy is not less apparent. On this last head I would observe, that you need to give yourself little uneasiness in combating the opinion, which is with no moderate zeal and industry endeavoured to be propagated, viz. that the cures are effected through the medium of imagination. The late experiments you have published on Infants, and on Horses, and various others of a similar tendency which have been made, will abundantly satisfy any candid enquirer; when those who at present attempt to decry the Tractors on those grounds, shall have seen so much of the practice of medicine as I have, for these twenty years past, and shall *divest themselves of prejudice*, and take the proper mode for ascertaining their merits, they will have ample cause for acknowledging their error.

"Before I close this note, I beg leave to suggest, as the result of my experience, the necessity of perseverance in many chronic cases, for several weeks, should the disorder not give way in a shorter time.—With every wish for your success, in relieving the afflicted, I remain, dear Sir, yours, &c.

JOHN MATHER."

Communicated by Mr. RICHARD TEED, *of Lancaster-court, Strand, a Gentleman well versed in Electricity, and other Branches of Philosophy, Feb.* 15, 1800.

"DEAR SIR,—In the course of my experiments with the Metallic Tractors, I have not been more amused and surprized in observing their effects than on this day. I was this morning visited by Miss B—, a young lady about 16 years of age, an intimate acquaintance in my family, who had been confined two months, and greatly reduced by a violent nervous fever. Her extreme irritibility of body and sensibility to any impression, occasioned by her sickness, suggested to my mind the fitness of her case to try the curious experiment related by professor Abildgaard, and which I have the pleasure to inform you has fully confirmed its truth, and unequivocally demonstrated the existence of the Metallic Influence. I persuaded this young lady to be blindfolded with an handkerchief; in this situation I first presented my finger to her face, without touching her, when she assured me that she felt a tickling sensation. On approaching her then with the Tractors, in the same way, she started, and felt a whistling wind, and so powerfully that she could easily tell to what part of the face they were presented. Her own report, indeed, was unnecessary to convince us of their influence, for we could observe a tremor in the muscles near to which the Tractors pointed. This experiment was faithfully tried twice in the presence of several persons, and uniformly with the same effect: She had no knowledge that different substances were presented to her face, which determines, in the most unequivocal manner, not only that an effect is produced by applications in this way, but the superior power of the Tractors.

I might here add, if necessary, some extraordinary cures, but suppose you receive so many from others they would not be particularly interesting. The Metallic Tractors need only to be used by unprejudiced persons to be very highly appreciated.

I am, dear Sir, your very humble Servant, RICHARD TEED*."

CASES ON HORSES.

The following Case is communicated by C. C. LANGWORTHY, M.D. *of Bath.*

CASE.—SEVERE CONTUSION.

"A Horse of N. A. VIGORS, Esq. of St. James's Square, Bath, in landing from one of the Holyhead packets, some months since, received from the pully-ropes an injury in his Gambril, which produced a great degree of swelling, extending from that part to the pastern, and up to his belly. This swelling took place, not withstanding he was put under the care of skilful farriers in Bath, who applied various ointments without any effect. At length Mr. VIGORS purchased a set of the Tractors, and immediately applied them in the presence of many spectators, who, in a few minutes, expressed their surprise on seeing the swelling abate. The Tractors were used five times only, when the swelling was entirely removed. He has continued well ever since, and has performed his regular hunting. It is now six weeks since the Tractors were first applied."

Communicated by JOHN DICKENSON, *Esq. of Leighton House, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.*

CASE.—SEVERE CONTUSIONS.

The length of this letter precludes the possibility of inserting the whole; suffice it to say, his hunter, by an accident in the stall, fell, and severely bruised the muscles on one side. Large swellings, of the size of two hands arose on the rump, on the hip bone, and on the stifle. Hot fomentations, spirits of wine, and Goulard, were tried without effect. The mare had a great fever, and it was supposed she would die. She was bled, and somewhat relieved, but the swellings did not abate even by the next day.

* *These Two last Communications being received since the Publication of the Work from which the others are extracted, appear now in Print for the first Time.*

"In this diſtreſſing and dangerous ſtate, the Tractors were applied," ſays Mr. D. "and in the courſe of 24 hours we obſerved a very great reduction of the ſwelling. On the ſecond day I attended the operation myſelf twenty minutes, during which time I could perceive the ſwellings ſubſide, and the parts become cooler. After continuing their uſe three times a day, for four days, the ſwellings were entirely reduced. In three weeks after the accident, the mare performed a journey of 150 miles, in four days, and has been perfectly well ever ſince. From the time the Tractors were uſed, all other remedies were laid aſide. (Signed) JOHN DICKENSON."

Letter from Mr. JOHN GRANT, *Leighton, Buzzard, Bedfordshire, 4th Month, 20, 1799.*

CASE.—AFFECTION OF THE EYES.

RESPECTED FRIEND,——"My firſt trial on my own horſes was for an affection in the Eyes, in a three years old colt. The near eye appeared to be failing very rapidly; indeed I apprehended it had already advanced to that ſtate from which it could never be reclaimed. I drew the Tractors along on the edge of the eye-lids, down the cheek, for twenty minutes. The effect aſtoniſhed me. The inflammation abated. A film, which covered nearly the whole eye, was in the courſe of a few days removed, and the eye became clear. Not long after this the other eye failed. The Tractors were applied as before, and with the ſame ſucceſs. It is now three months ſince theſe applications were made, and the eye yet remains good."

CASE.—A WOUND IN THE EYE FROM A BLOW.

"One of my waggon horſes had a ſtroke in the eye with the laſh of a waggon whip. I at firſt apprehended the eye was loſt. This however appearing not to be the fact, we drew the Tractors around it, as in the former caſe; and with only two operations the horſe was cured."

CASE.—STRAIN IN THE BACK SINEWS.

"A gentleman of this town had the Tractors tried on one of his horſes, which was very lame from a ſprain in the back ſinews. After uſing them three or four times, and devoting about thirty minutes to each operation, a perfect cure was effected."

CASE.—A PUNCTURED TENDON.

"Another horſe belonging to the ſame perſon received a wound in a tendon, from a thorn running into it, which occaſioned much inflammation, pain, and lameneſs. This was alſo cured by the application of the Tractors.

"I have witneſſed the good effects of the Metallic Practice in ſeveral other caſes, where partial inflammations had fallen on various parts of the bodies of horſes.—Have ſeen inflammations abated, and tumours reduced ſo effectually by drawing the Tractors over the affected part, as to ſuperceed the neceſſity of fomentations, embrocations, &c. I have further noticed their good effects when applied near the ſide of wounds: The foul appearances are changed, and a diſpoſition to heal facilitated. As my remarks are the reſult of conſiderable experience, and pretty attentive obſervation, I have no objection to their being made public. I remain thy aſſured friend, JOHN GRANT."

Numerous other Caſes on Horſes have been received and publiſhed, and ſome of a more extraordinary nature than thoſe which are adduced, but want of room forbids their inſertion here.

Many comments on the above caſes, and the ſeveral hundred of a ſimilar deſcription, from the firſt literary characters in Europe and America, which are publiſhed, are unneceſſary—they ſpeak for themſelves. It may be proper, however, juſt to add, that the aſſailants on this practice endeavour to derogate from its merits, and to diſſuade from its uſe, by propagating the idea that it produces its effects through the medium of Imagination!! We ſhall not treat the underſtanding of the reader with ſo much levity as to offer one argument in refutation of ſo demonſtrable an error. If ſuch cures can be wrought—if ſuch good can be done by an operation on the mind, Why, in the name of juſtice, mercy, and humanity, is that mode not adopted? The moſt charitable concluſion is, that the number are very ſmall who do really believe that the imagination can be employed to thoſe important purpoſes.

IT is unneceſſary to obſerve, how extenſively uſeful a SET *of the* TRACTORS *is in every Family, where the Diſeaſes for which they are ſo innocent and effectual a Remedy, ſo frequently occur.—Their Utility alſo among Farmers and Proprietors of Horſes, is too obvious to be mentioned. They may be had* GENUINE, *with new and improved* DIRECTIONS *for uſing them in Families, and on Horſes, rendering the Mode perfectly intelligible to every Capacity, of* BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, *the Proprietor and Patentee, in Leiceſter-Square; of* FREDERICK SMITH, *Chemiſt and Druggiſt, in the Hay-Market, London; and of Mr.* BRAY, *Chemiſt and Druggiſt, Sunderland, County of Durham;*

PRICE FIVE GUINEAS THE SET.

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